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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending May 28, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Good Week for Field Work: Cooler temperatures at the beginning of the week left some frost damaged crops within Pennsylvania. These cooler days held back progress for several crops. By the weekend, temperatures rapidly changed and were reaching the 80's. Hay making is well under way, but yields have been somewhat lower than normal. The corn crop is showing good color. As temperatures rise, soils are drying up more. Although it did rain for the better part of the previous week, farmers hoped for some precipitation for the newly planted crops. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included hauling and spreading manure and lime, spraying pesticides and herbicides, repairing equipment, transplanting tobacco cutting hay, planting corn, soybeans, and potatoes.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 28, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	18	76	5

Crops: Planting for the corn crop is at 89 percent completion, 3 percent behind last year's pace, but still remains ahead of the 5-year average. The corn is now rapidly emerging at 69 percent, well ahead last year and the 5-year average. The corn condition has been reported as 64 percent in good or excellent condition. Soybean planting is at 67 percent complete, 8 percent behind last year at this time. Emergence for the soybean crop is at 29 percent, slightly ahead of last year's figure. Eighty-nine percent of the winter wheat crop is now heading, far above average. The wheat crop condition, which is doing well, was reported as 84 percent good or better. Oats are nearly fully emerged at 99 percent, 3 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Sixty-four percent of the oat crop is in either good or excellent condition. Potato planting jumped to 95 percent complete, just 3 percent ahead of last year at this time. Cutting for hay is in full swing as 42 percent of the first cutting for alfalfa is complete, the same as it was a year ago. The Timothy/Clover cutting for hay recently began at 10 percent completion, closely trailing the 5-year average. The quality of hay made at this point in time was reported as 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 28 percent excellent.

All fruits for Pennsylvania are now considered to be in full bloom. Peach and apple conditions are great as 94 percent of peaches and 99 percent of apples were reported as good or excellent.

Livestock: With the recent rain that Pennsylvania has received, pastures are looking better. Grass is showing better height and color. Livestock seem to be doing fine for the most part. This week's

pasture conditions are the following: 4 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

U.S. as of May 23, 2006: Temperatures averaged below normal across the eastern half of the Nation. Persistent rainfall across the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley hindered planting, while below-normal temperatures limited emergence and development.

Corn: Growers had planted 92 percent of their acreage, compared with 94 percent last year and 87 percent for the 5-year average. Emergence, at 66 percent, was 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. The season's first estimates of crop condition showed nearly two-thirds of the crop rated as good or excellent, slightly better than last year at this time.

Soybeans: Seeding advanced to 55 percent complete, 8 points behind last year but 4 points ahead of normal. With warm, dry conditions and corn planting nearing completion, growers planted their crop rapidly. Emergence, however, progressed slowly due to cool weather across most growing areas. Seventeen percent of the crop was at or beyond emergence, compared with 25 percent last year and 23 percent for the 5-year average. Emergence of the crop had begun in all States, but was behind normal in most areas due to the previous slow planting pace and cool temperatures.

Winter Wheat: Seventy-one percent of the acreage was at or beyond the heading stage, 4 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. In most States, progress was ahead of normal. With mostly dry conditions across the western half of the Nation, crop condition declined.

Small Grains: Barley seeding was 90 percent complete, compared with 89 percent last year and 85 percent for the 5-year average. Emergence had begun on 61 percent of the acreage, 4 points behind last year but 3 points ahead of normal. The crop emerged rapidly in most States under warm conditions.

Oat growers had sown 97 percent of their crop, 1 point behind last year but 3 points ahead of normal. Planting was complete or nearly complete in all States, and was at or ahead of the normal pace in all States. Eighty-nine percent of the acreage had begun emerging, compared with 87 percent last year and 80 percent for the normal. The crop emerged rapidly in North Dakota and Pennsylvania, advancing 27 and 28 points respectively. Heading, at 23 percent, was 1 point ahead of last year and the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 28, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 28, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	79	32	57	-4	1.04	2	6.79	0.49	27	301	65	752
Franklin	79	31	56	-4	0.84	3	7.33	0.42	27	274	41	766
Meadville	76	32	56	-3	1.03	4	6.29	-0.40	26	282	82	747
Mercer	78	30	56	-5	1.35	4	8.74	2.01	28	259	18	739
Springboro	77	29	54	-7	0.99	3	9.98	3.98	28	223	-26	652
Warren	76	31	54	-6	0.85	3	7.24	0.17	27	233	12	690
North Central												
Bradford Region	73	29	52	-4	0.84	4	6.02	-0.94	28	163	23	564
Emporium	80	33	56	-2	0.18	3	6.12	-1.25	27	208	45	702
Kane	76	27	51	-5	0.82	3	6.15	-1.14	23	105	-30	499
Laporte	71	34	53	-7	0.17	3	5.96	-0.91	24	177	-64	614
Lock Haven	81	37	58	-4	0.34	2	4.72	-1.70	22	299	28	824
Port Allegany	76	29	53	-5	0.71	3	5.31	-1.16	22	161	-14	583
Renovo	81	37	57	-5	0.27	2	5.08	-1.34	24	288	17	806
Ridgway	77	29	55	-3	0.67	3	6.58	-0.79	27	164	1	613
Stevenson Dam	81	35	56	-2	0.26	2	4.67	-2.70	23	255	92	767
Towanda	79	35	56	-5	0.16	4	4.47	-1.54	21	243	-5	722
Wellsboro	75	32	53	-4	0.28	2	5.13	-0.17	22	150	8	570
Williamsport	82	38	59	-4	0.15	2	5.10	-1.57	22	358	25	883
Northeast												
Hawley	76	31	54	-5	0.85	2	8.86	1.85	20	179	2	621
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	76	38	58	-5	0.31	2	5.29	-0.94	19	343	50	846
Susquehanna	74	36	55	-3	0.58	2	6.44	-0.78	25	201	41	658
West Central												
Butler	80	30	57	-4	0.50	3	8.45	1.59	27	262	1	765
New Castle	82	31	58	-3	1.05	4	8.26	2.10	29	355	100	869
Slippery Rock	80	31	57	-4	1.37	4	9.02	2.58	30	290	62	793
Central												
Altoona/Blair	78	34	58	-4	0.15	2	3.70	-2.73	20	328	19	847
DuBois	77	28	55	-6	0.59	3	6.70	-0.23	29	249	14	721
Lewistown	83	39	59	-4	0.89	3	5.71	-0.92	25	339	-22	872
Middletown	81	45	62	-3	0.05	1	5.11	-1.97	19	485	70	1,035
Prince Gallitzi	77	30	54	-5	0.45	2	6.10	-2.38	26	180	-28	648
Selinsgrove	80	38	58	-4	0.06	1	5.66	-0.99	20	320	16	845
State College	76	40	58	-4	0.32	2	4.30	-1.85	22	348	56	878
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	82	40	61	-3	0.31	2	5.00	-2.33	23	413	58	947
Lehighton	79	39	59	-5	0.11	2	7.39	0.16	25	326	-12	841
Matamoras	79	34	55	-7	0.20	2	6.88	-0.96	25	230	-52	705
Mt_Pocono	74	34	54	-2	0.22	3	9.08	0.89	25	195	60	645
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	78	36	60	-3	0.24	3	6.08	-0.96	26	424	110	963
Derry	77	33	56	-5	0.64	3	8.55	1.68	27	286	16	793
Myersdale	74	29	52	-9	0.13	3	7.21	-0.65	29	118	-143	556
Mount Pleasant	77	29	56	-4	1.07	3	8.41	0.52	25	257	40	759
Pittsburgh Intl	79	34	59	-4	0.54	4	6.08	-0.30	25	411	71	938
Connellsville	79	32	57	-6	0.16	3	8.87	1.22	32	363	6	889
Waynesburg	80	32	57	-5	0.31	2	5.95	-1.09	25	301	10	821
South Central												
Biglerville	81	42	61	-5	0.17	1	5.84	-0.92	23	409	-5	956
Everett	78	34	56	-6	0.10	1	5.50	-1.12	24	212	-79	729
Hanover	79	38	60	-6	0.03	1	5.88	-0.88	26	386	-28	927
Harrisburg_AP	82	41	61	-4	0.06	1	5.75	-1.33	22	461	39	1,011
South Mountain	78	35	57	-5	0.03	1	6.95	0.52	26	241	-61	748
York	82	37	60	-6	0.02	1	5.63	-1.30	24	390	-35	925
Southeast												
Green Lane	82	40	61	-2	0.13	1	5.93	-1.43	22	416	87	954
Hamburg	81	40	60	-1	0.38	1	5.98	-2.30	24	435	165	971
West_Chester	84	34	60	-5	0.24	1	5.87	-1.91	21	368	-36	900
Lancaster	80	40	61	-4	0.36	1	6.17	-0.74	22	430	72	974
Neshaminy Falls	83	39	61	-3	0.21	1	7.22	-0.85	20	358	8	898
New Holland	80	41	61	-3	0.24	1	5.36	-1.55	22	438	80	978
Philadelphia	84	45	65	-1	0.03	1	5.88	-1.13	17	605	146	1,172
Philadelphia NE	85	44	65	-2	0.06	1	7.85	0.84	20	581	122	1,143
Reading	81	40	62	-2	0.00	0	5.03	-2.75	21	465	128	1,006
Valley Forge Na	84	36	61	-6	0.25	1	6.39	-1.12	20	421	-21	963
Willow Grove	83	43	63	0	0.11	2	5.68	-2.39	20	481	131	1,033

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County has another dry week of weather. Most days were 60-70 degrees however over the holiday weekend temperatures rose to the high 80's along with high humidity. All of the crops need moisture to continue for this important time of the crop year. We are still in the drought conditions for the county with being well over 4" short for the year.

Corn and soybeans continue to be planted. You can now see the corn and soybeans emerging. Hay has begun to be baled and haylage continues to be chopped. The hay crop appears to be shorter and thinner than most years due to the lack of rainfall. Wheat and barley continue to mature.

Strawberries are being harvested in the county. Apples and peaches are looking good. Some concerns though for apples with beginning of last weeks colder nighttime temperatures and the thinning with spray not working with temperatures similar to what the county had last week. This makes for difficult timing for the fruit growers and their spray schedules.

Overall for as dry as it is our county is fairing ok for now. Bring on some rain to help with the future of the crops.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Warm weather has finally arrived. Corn is starting to grow now. Sunny windy days late in week allowed for excellent hay making. Some early soybeans have to be replanted. Barley and wheat are excellent. Good weather for fruit this week.

BERKS COUNTY, Theresa Tracey (FSA) - Dry and hot conditions for most of the week. Hay making progressed. Producers for the most part are reporting complete acreage reports. Some soybean planting still needs to be completed and reported.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - A good deal of orchard grass hay was made last week. Yield is below average due to lack of moisture earlier in the season; quality was generally good. Corn planting is near complete; soybeans better than 50% planted. Strawberries are in.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Farmers are finishing their plantings and beginning hay making.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Hay making is well under way with no rain in the forecast for the next 4 or 5 days. Top soil moisture is low. Rain is needed to get crops growing. We only had .30 inches during the past week.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty - Cold weather held back crop progress.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - Corn greening due to warmer weather, but lack of rain this past week has reduced soil moisture conditions.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Overall this raining week ended with a warm and dry weekend which had dairy farmers busy with mowing and filling silos. Many farmers were finishing planting corn and starting on soybeans. The continual rains, in the early part of the week, helped the pasture fields bounce back with some much needed regrowth.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Frost the past two weeks has slowed the growth of hay. Hay is headed and needs to be harvested. Most farmers are reporting low yields. The frost stopped most growth in its tracks. Some are replanting where seed rotted in the ground.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT) - The corn is finally showing some green color. Cloudy cool days have given it a yellow cast. Haylage and baleage are being harvested rapidly. Most pre-emergent herbicides are holding the weeds well in corn fields.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - Corn is close to being tested with a chlorophyll meter for nitrogen application. Lots of Alfalfa has been harvested. Weeds are maturing quickly in pastures. Time for mowing or spraying. It would be nice to see some rain soon for all crops especially for the young tobacco transplants.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Great week for hay making. Corn planting is about finished, soybeans continue to be planted. Only a tenth of an inch of rain Friday. Earliest oats are in boot stage. Hot weather and sun has improved the color of corn.

LANCASTER COUNTY, BURELL WHITWORTH JR (NRCS) - Hope to keep getting timely rains. All crops are growing well.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Warmer temperatures have finally arrived. This along with more showers has made a dramatic improvement in the color of the corn. The planting of corn and soybeans is reaching the final stages, with a few reports of replanting taking place. Haymaking is progressing with the yields being average to above average. The wheat is nearing full head stage and is looking very good. The barley is beginning to turn color and has good head size. The main activities for the week were haymaking, spraying, and planting corn and soybeans.

TIOGA COUNTY, J.Craig Williams (EXT) - 7 days ago it was 30 degrees and today it is 90. Hay bines started out this weekend and went full speed. Corn is out of the ground. Soil moisture is still okay but somewhat dry in places. Remember to record what you planted or sprayed in each field so we do not lose this information in the harvest rush.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - A Tuesday morning frost did some damage to growing crops. Most of the corn should recover because the growing point was not exposed. Some early-planted sweet corn was killed by the cold. All crops need some sun and warmer temperatures. Hay yields are light, probably as a result of the spring's early dry conditions.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 28, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, planted	89	92	80
Corn, emerged	69	56	58
Corn average height, inches	6	0	0
Barley, turning yellow	36	15	23
Wheat, heading or headed	89	65	72
Oats, emerged	99	96	87
Soybeans, planted	67	75	49
Soybeans, emerged	29	28	24
Tobacco, transplanted	81	29	29
Potatoes, planted	95	92	85
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	42	42	36
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	10	18	12

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 28, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	6	30	54	10
Wheat	0	2	14	69	15
Oats	0	2	34	61	3
Soybeans	0	1	36	57	6
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	8	24	54	14
Timothy clover stand	1	6	29	54	10
Quality of hay made	0	2	15	55	28
Pasture	4	9	34	48	5
Peaches	0	2	4	49	45
Apples	0	0	1	50	49

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